

The President's Daily Brief

9 November 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we comment on Moshe Dayan's apparent change of heart regarding resumption of the Jarring talks.

The results of yesterday's election in the West German state of Hesse are discussed on *Page 2*.

A large Cambodian-ARVN offensive operation is under way and additional initiatives are planned by Phnom Penh. (*Page 3*)

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ISRAEL

Moshe Dayan appears to be softening his earlier opposition to renewing the Jarring talks. In his speech on 7 November he avoided mentioning Egyptian missiles in the standstill zone, and declared himself "very much in favor of our participation in the Jarring talks in order to achieve peace, despite the fact that I am well aware that this means a dive into some very cold water indeed." The matter may have been discussed at a cabinet meeting yesterday.

Dayan's apparent switch seems to stem from his reading of US policy and from his evaluation of the domestic political situation. The explicit references in his speech to Israel's dependence on US support suggest that this factor entered into his decision to change his position. It may also be related to the quiet maneuvering for position now under way between the top contenders to succeed Prime Minister Golda Meir, even though few observers expect Mrs. Meir to step down voluntarily before the end of the current Knesset term in the fall of 1973. Having almost certainly boosted his strong public image and popularity by his earlier hard line on the Jarring talks, Dayan may now think that he can afford some compromise on this issue.

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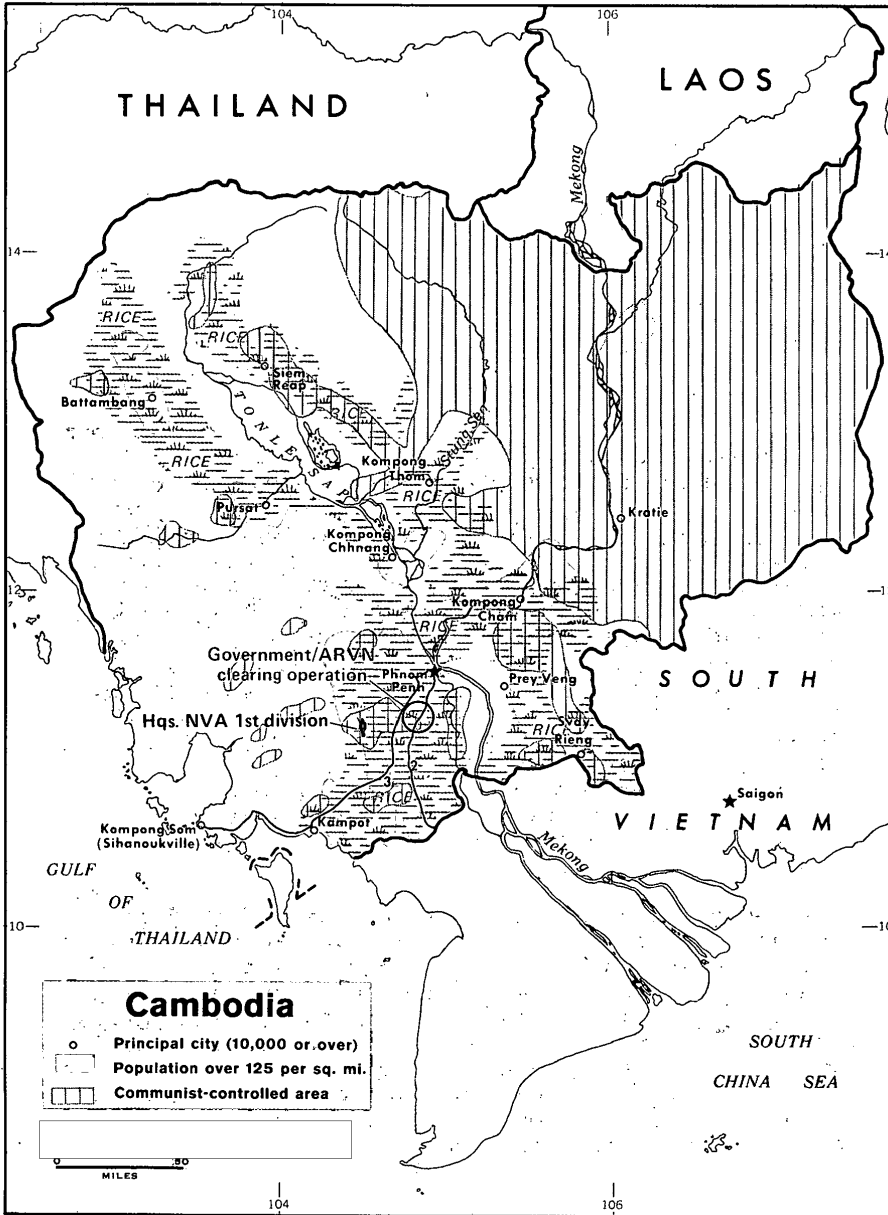
WEST GERMANY

Brandt's coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), won a comfortable 10.1 percent of the vote in yesterday's elections in the state of Hesse. This is well above both the five percent needed for seating and the party's 6.7 percent showing in Hesse in the 1969 Federal election. Brandt's Social Democrats (SPD) polled 45.9 percent in Hesse yesterday, down from 48.2 percent in 1969. The Christian Democrats, who had been expected to pick up considerable strength, polled 39.7 percent, an increase of only 1.3 percent over 1969.

The FDP's unexpected gains, although at the expense of the Hessian SPD, are good news for Brandt whose government depends on the FDP for its slim majority. The results of the voting in Hesse should dispel the recent doubts about the FDP's viability and help the party retain the loyalty of its deputies in Bonn. The election outcome will not only prolong the life expectancy of the FDP-SPD alliance, but will also mean that Brandt and Foreign Minister Scheel, the FDP leader, can pursue negotiations with the East with renewed confidence.

In Hesse, the SPD and FDP plan to form a coalition, replacing the previous all-SPD government in the state.

Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Five Cambodian battalions and 3,100 ARVN troops began a clearing operation yesterday between Routes 2 and 3, some 20 miles southwest of Phnom Penh. The North Vietnamese Army 1st Division headquarters is located west of Route 3, near the operation's target area but so far no significant enemy contacts have been made.

This is one of the largest joint offensives to date. The Cambodians undertook a similar operation on their own in this same area last month, but its results were disappointing.

The government also plans to launch another riverine operation from Kompong Chhnang city to Kompong Thom city on 12 November. It is scheduled to last 15 days, and will include 1,500 army and navy personnel. In addition to delivering supplies to Kompong Thom, the task force also will try to re-establish government control between the east bank of the Tonle Sap Lake and the Stung Sen River. In September, three government river convoys from Kompong Chhnang successfully delivered supplies and reinforcements to Kompong Thom.

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